

# LIBRARY COMMISSION NEWSLETTER

2004 Quarrier St., Charleston, West Virginia (25311)

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March 1969

No. 1

## KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH THE BLIND



Four participants in "Braille for the Sighted" are seen conferring in the Library Commission's Office for Service to Institutions and the Handicapped in Kanawha City. Pictured from left to right are Donald Chumley, instructor, Mrs. Aaron Rapking, Assistant for the Handicapped from Kanawha County Library, Miss Meme Wilson, a student, and Ray Thomas, assistant instructor.

The Perkins Brailers, shown on the table, are being used by the students for practice in transcription. The object of the class is to assist the blind reader in correspondence or supply him with text materials he may need for study. The Kanawha County Adult Education Program is co-sponsoring the training, which will be a three month introduction to the skill. Nancy Taylor, library consultant in charge, will be glad to help any public library or Friend's group sponsor braille training.

Mr. Chumley is a graduate of the Romney School for the Blind and holds a bachelor's degree from Salem College. Mr. Thomas is a retired engineer, formerly at Union Carbide, who has become a student of braille due to a recent loss of sight. Two teen-agers from Stonewall Jackson High School in Charleston, are studying with the expectation of assisting two blind classmates.

Mrs. Aaron Rapking at the Kanawha County Library, reports a special project: a recent blind enrollee in a Dale Carnegie class was not keeping pace with his fellow students. The library could not obtain the particular text he wanted on tape, and they asked the cooperation of the Kanawha Players in recording the text. The project was such a success that the Players have agreed to continue the recording service for others.

NEW BILLS PASSED  
BY  
59TH-LEGISLATURE

Senate Bill 39 provides for grants in aid to public libraries from state funds as well as federal when public libraries meet standards. (A special Newsletter on state legislation, related to libraries will be issued soon.)

Two special bills breezed through both houses due to excellent engineering on the local level. Marion County's old special law was repealed, the board will reorganize under the West Virginia Code, Chapter X. Raleigh County Library sponsored a bill which places its personnel under Public Employees Retirement, and vastly improved support from the County Court and the Board of Education. Copies of all bills will be made available on request.

NEW  
TRUSTEES  
WELCOME ABOARD !!

New Haven has formed a new city library board and moved into new quarters. An Open House was held on February 15, 1969. New members are: R. G. Greene, Lewis Summers, Chester Curry, Karl Wiles, Hilda Smith.

Bluefield Library had until this year functioned as a Department of City government. A separate management board has been appointed with the following members: Mrs. David Platnick, Mr. Angelo Monaco, Mrs. Scott Shott, Mr. R. W. Wilkinson, Mr. Peter P. Ferretti.

A former librarian at Welch, brought back into harness at Bluefield, is Mrs. Brooke Robinson. Bluefield has a lucky break here.

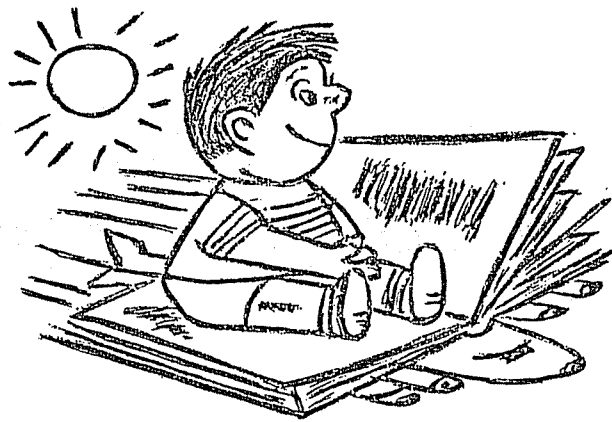
Trustee Kits will be assembled in the Field Office and mailed to all new trustees. Remind us, if we overlook your group!

PLANS FOR  
NEW BUILDING  
AT  
WHEELING

Six years of planning are finally bearing fruit in Ohio County. Estimated costs of the building are approximately one million dollars. Miss Jeanine Kreyenbuhl, director of the Ohio County Library has worked with Chapman Parsons preparing an excellent building program for 44,000 square feet. The location will be on Sixteenth Street, across from the City-County building.

BE ALL YOU CAN BE .... READ!!!

ORDER  
MATERIALS  
BY  
MARCH 17.



NATIONAL  
LIBRARY  
WEEK  
APRIL 20-26

The Fly Boy, easily the most winning of the National Library Week poster schemes, advises all librarians that March 17 is the deadline for ordering display materials. Order Forms are enclosed.

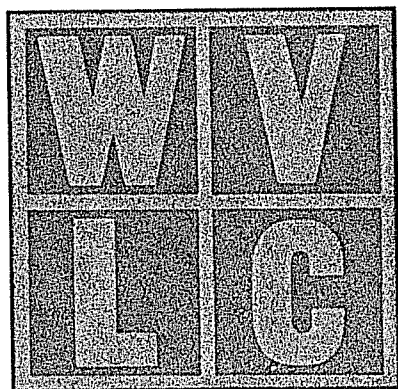
Due to the enthusiasm of Miss Wilma Brown, National Library Week Chairman, a full-fledged Committee has been established with Mrs. Lucille Pianfetti of Charleston, serving as Co-Chairman. She suggests:

1. Appoint a local committee - a cross-section of civic leadership or use the Friends of the Library to point up the values of reading and the needs of the library.
2. Use all media - Radio, T. V., Newspapers. The Library Commission will have Sample Spot Announcements and News Releases. Special State Themes are: "Adopt a Handicapped Reader" and "Be a Librarian."
3. Book for showing - the excellent 20 minute recruitment film "The Challenge of Change." Miss Brown has secured this for one month at Charleston. Write her or the William Matthews Company, 130 Seventh Street, Pittsburgh, Penn. 15222. No charge.

National Library Week Committee: Mrs. Frank Annand, Charleston; Mr. E. M. Ashworth, Charleston; Mr. Paul N. Chryssiakas, Bluefield; Mrs. James Dyer, Franklin; Mrs. J. T. Handhan, Keyser; Mr. John Hodel, Beckley; Mrs. June Lay, Wood County Schools, Parkersburg; Mrs. E. H. Long, Huntington; Mrs. Samuel W. Price, Oak Hill; Mrs. Katherine B. Robinson, Charleston; Mrs. Richard G. Starr, Beckley; Mrs. Richard R. Taylor, Fairmont; Miss Eileen Carpino, Wheeling; Miss Jean Elliott, Shepherd College, Shepherdstown; Mr. Elliott Horton, Morgantown.

A WORD  
TO  
THE WISE

Send for the winter issue of North Country Libraries. It features "Trustees in Action" by Genevieve Galick, "Partners in Service" by Herbert E. Kimball, and "Tax Sheltered Annuities" by H. Peter Karoff.



# LIBRARY COMMISSION

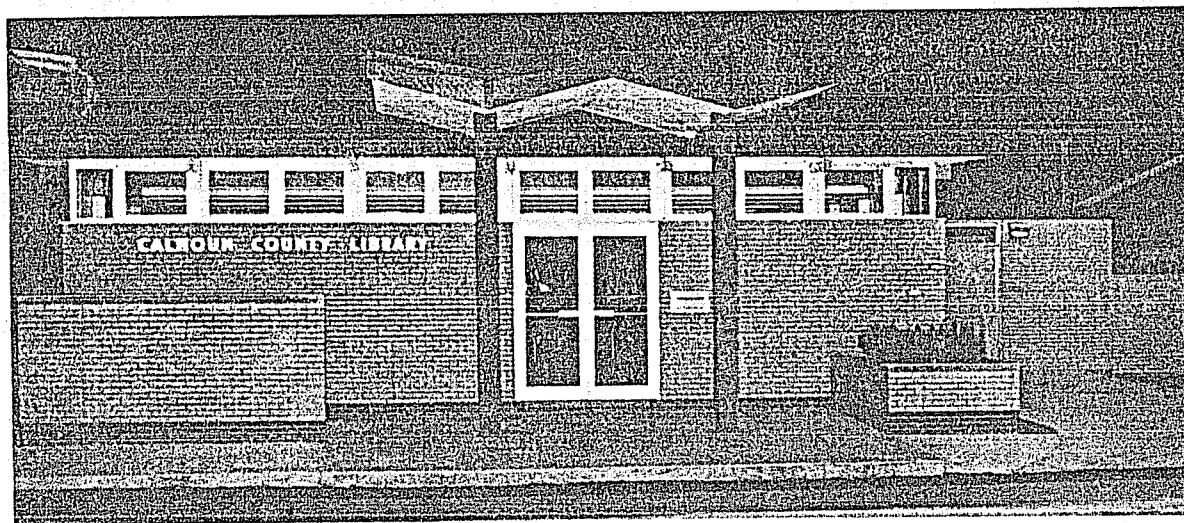
## NEWSLETTER

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CALHOUN COUNTY LIBRARY

The public library in Grantsville is one of three buildings completed with Library Services and Construction Act Funds in the past year. It typifies the best in small library design. Salient exterior features are the Butterfly canopy which beckons to post office patrons across the way. The clerestory window frequently used in modern church design, encourage maximum use of interior walls in future expansion.

The architect for the building, Emory N. Mick of Charleston, employed Capitol Business Interiors to plan the interior. This method is a new approach, resulting in originality in concepts and great variety in types of equipment. The total cost of the project was \$95,836.46. The narrow sixty foot lot accomodates 3,218 square feet on a slab construction.

Interior details of the Calhoun Library include walnut equipment from Remington Rand; red, white, and yellow stack shelving by Royal Metal; a custom charging desk by Steincraft; Herman Miller lounge and shell chairs are used at the front of the building for informal reading centered on two carpeted areas; and the use of study carrel units is a unique feature for a small library.

Mrs. Elizabeth Mollohan has served Grantsville as librarian since 1956. The library was founded in 1951 and has been an active member of the Alpha Regional Library system since its founding. As proof of solid backing of the community, the Lions Club has recently made a donation of \$1,000 to help pay off the local debt. The County Court was also active participant in the funding.

SENATOR BYRD  
DEDICATES  
OAK HILL BRANCH

In the October 12 ceremonies the Senator noted, "the total body of mankind's knowledge is doubling each decade, meaning that the libraries of the world must be not only the repositories of this swiftly mushrooming data, but the purveyors of it as well." Commenting on support for libraries, he noted "In 1956, Massachusetts was spending \$2.19 per capita on libraries, West Virginia was spending 19 cents. This state now spends 87 cents per capita. "A share of this fiscal improvement is due to the Federal Library Services Act."

The Oak Hill Library building, a striking colonial design, is a gift to the city. Herbert Jones gave the land and the \$150,000 brick building. The library is to be operated as a branch of the Fayette County Library. Mrs. Lee Woods, librarian, is an employee of the Fayette County Board. The City of Oak Hill and Mr. Jones will share in maintenance costs of the library. Mrs. Jo Anderson coordinates the program as the Fayette County Librarian. Rev. Shirley Donnelly will continue as the curator of a very valuable historical collection housed on the first floor of the library. Members of the Oak Hill Advisory Board are Dr. R. H. German, John B. Long, J. Ike Brown, Robert Holiday, and Mr. and Mrs. N. M. Steen.

LIBRARIES  
IN  
NEW QUARTERS

Removal of the library from a crowded area over the fire station to a spacious room in the new Benedum Community Center Building, was a time for rejoicing in Cameron. The Woman's Club had been the chief support of the program; the library now becomes an official branch of the City-County Library of Moundsville. Mrs. Ray Wellman is the new librarian. The County Court gave a special tax appropriation for the new branch, and the Benedum Foundation equipped the room.

Piedmont Library has been moved from the Dennison Building on Library Alley, to a larger storeroom in the business district. In McMechen, the city council purchased a church building on Eighth Street, and made extensive renovations. Dedication was held in Mid-October. Miss Irene Rude continues as the librarian.

NEW MARTINSVILLE  
COMES OF AGE

The twenty-first anniversary of the city library was observed by Mrs. Theo Kiger and staff with extensive renovation of the building. The New Martinsville Jaycees and the Women's Civic League provided the cash and the manpower for removal of partitions, installation of new lighting, flooring, and modernization of entrances.

NEW LEGAL RULING  
AIDS  
LIBRARIES

"Lump sum payments to Agencies of your local Government," is the subject of an Attorney General's opinion issued April 3, 1968. Since a public library is considered a part of local government (such as County Court, Board of Education, or Municipality), the following statements strengthen the authorization of separate accounts for public libraries.

The County Court of Berkeley County, in a letter to C. Campbell Beall, the President of the Board of Martinsburg Public Library, indicated that lump sum payments would continue to be made to the library because it is separately audited by the Tax Commissioner. The County Court cited the memorandum from Clifford Lantz, State Tax Commissioner, dated May 22, 1968, and the Attorney General's ruling.

The Attorney General's ruling stemmed from a controversy over the transfer of public funds from Cabell County Court to aid fire prevention facilities. Mr. Lantz commented as follows: "In essence, the conclusions reached by the Attorney General are that each local government must establish an account within its own bookkeeping system for the purpose of maintaining control over disbursements..... "a general guide to follow in determining what service agencies in addition to volunteer fire departments are affected, is to find out if the service agency is separately audited by the Tax Commissioner. If the agency is not separately audited, then local government must maintain a separate account, if on the other hand, the agency is separately audited, then a lump sum payment may be made to that agency, provided all other requirements are met."

The advantages of public libraries keeping their own accounts can be realized in several areas: better control of funds can be assured for libraries if capital improvements and large equipment items are needed e. g. buildings and bookmobiles; separate arrangements regarding personnel can more easily be established in regard to fringe benefits and salary schedules. (and better bargains can be obtained in book buying)

REPORT  
FROM  
W. V. L. A.  
1968

The West Virginia Library Association reported 125 in attendance at the annual meeting at Martinsburg in September. Both Charles Reid, Mayor of Paramus, N. J., Representative from the American Library Trustees Association and Jack Chitwood, Library Director from Rockford, Illinois, emphasized the importance of considering public library service as a "Mandated Service." In Illinois, this concept has raised state aid standards to \$1.50 per capita.

A BRAILLE CLASS  
FOR  
SIGHTED PERSONS

In the last week of January the Library Commission in conjunction with the Kanawha County Board of Education, will sponsor a training program in Braille. Donald Chumley, Counselor for the Blind at the Rehabilitation Center in Institute, will serve as the instructor. The blind need assistance in transcribing materials into Braille and also in preparation of correspondence. Here is an excellent hobby, which can provide the personal satisfaction of lending a helping hand. Enrollment is limited to twelve. Phone 348-4061 or 348-2041 for information. Cost \$6.00 per registrant.

GET  
PUBLICITY  
MINDED

In 1968, for the 24th time, the John Cotton Dana Publicity Awards will be presented. The winners gain national recognition and also have the opportunity to show their local public that the community has a good library and to share in their prize winning ideas with fellow librarians. Entry blanks must be mailed by March 31, 1969. The Field Office of the Library Commission has entry blanks.

"STILL LOOKING  
FOR  
A WANDERING AIRPLANE"

Campbell Beall was a very thoughtful host during the West Virginia Library Association Convention. At 11:00 A. M. he went to the Martinsburg Airport to meet the chartered plane, which was to bring twenty-two conventioners from Charleston. When the plane did not appear, he sent the message "Looking for a Wandering Airplane" on the Library's teletype to the Library Commission Headquarters. Mrs. Pat Pearson, a new library assistant at the headquarters, reports that she had no idea that the request referred to a real plane. She conscientiously checked all the usual bibliographic sources - Books In Print, Cumulative Book Index etc. for a book called "Wandering Airplane." Having no luck on the search, she asked Martinsburg for the author, but she did not learn until the staff returned from the convention that this was not a book. The charter flight was two hours late leaving Charleston due to mechanical difficulties!!

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Thomas Buckman, in addressing the American Library Association Convention in Kansas City last summer selected a vigorous title for his speech, "Libraries Can Be An Intellectual Force." His theme "We, as librarians, must keep the faith that books can change the minds of men."